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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,992	01/17/2002	Hitoshi Ohashi	020052	5363

23850 7590 12/02/2005

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

TALBOT, BRIAN K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1762

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/047,992

Applicant(s)

OHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Brian K. Talbot

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,8,11,17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,8,17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The amendment filed 9/30/05 has been considered and entered. Claims 2-6,9-10,12-16 and 19-50 have been canceled. Claims 1,7,8,11,17 and 18 remain in the application.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. In light of the amendment filed 9/30/05 has been considered and entered. The objection to the Title and the 35 USC 112 rejections have been withdrawn.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1,7,8,11,17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sterett et al. (5,746,844) in combination with Kudoh et al. (4,656,048).

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Sterett et al. (5,746,844) teaches a method and apparatus for creating a three dimensional article using a layer-by-layer deposition of molten metal and annealing. The molten metal is applied by depositing the droplets in a predetermined pattern and rate (abstract).

Sterett et al. (5,746,844) fails to teach measuring and comparing data calculated by a monitoring device to control the deposited material.

Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) a method of forming thick film circuit patterns with a sufficiently wide and uniform strip. The monitoring system measures and controls the distance of the nozzle from the substrate and compares that to a set value and performs and necessary changes to maintain the desired value (col. 2, lines 30-40, col. 3, line 55 – col. 4, line 35).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sterett et al. (5,746,844) deposition process by incorporating a measuring/control system as evidenced by Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) to produce the desired circuit pattern.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 in combination with Kudoh et al. (4,656,048).

Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) teaches a high speed direct writing with metallic microspheres. Small droplets of molten metal are generated toward a substrate to form conductive traces (abstract).

JP 10-226,803 teaches a three dimensional body formed by various kinds of materials. Molten metal is spouted from a nozzle (10) to form droplets (20) that are applied to a substrate to form electric circuits (abstract).

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Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 fail to teach measuring and comparing data calculated by a monitoring device to control the deposited material.

Features described concerning Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) above are incorporated here.

Claims 7,8,17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 in combination with Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) further in combination with Sterett et al. (5,746,844) or Pan (6,501,663).

Features described above concerning Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 in combination with Kudoh et al. are incorporated here.

Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 in combination with Kudoh et al. fail to specifically teach forming an insulating layer atop the molten layer.

Features described above concerning Sterett et al. (5,746,844) are incorporated here.

Pan (6,501,663) teaches a three dimensional interconnect whereby an interconnect is covered with an insulator layer to protect the interconnect (abstract and Figs 5-7).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Orme-Marmerelis et al. (6,520,402) or JP 10-226,803 in combination with Kudoh et al. by incorporating an insulator layer atop the molten metal circuit layer as evidenced by either Sterett et al. (5,746,844) or Pan (6,501,663) with the expectation of achieving a multilayered structure or a protective layer for the circuitry.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's arguments filed 9/30/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that the combination of references fails to teach “converting the data to a second set of data” for application of the molten metal.

The Examiner disagrees. Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) teaches “making any necessary changes to the measured values” prior to applying the coating. Hence, this clearly teaches that “a second value” is converted from the first value and the set values. Furthermore, the claims are broad enough to read upon the first and second set of data to be the same, i.e. no change necessary, and this would also be met by the art rejection.

Applicant argued that Kudoh et al. (4,656,048) teaches applying a paste and not a molten metal.

The Examiner agrees. However, the reference is relied upon for teach the conventionality of gathering data and comparing the data to a set value and using the value to produce a desired value for subsequent deposition of a coating material and not for the specific coating material disclosed. It is the Examiner's position that the process steps of measuring/comparing/setting value would be applicable to a wide range of coating materials inclusive of that claimed. The benefits associated with such a controlled process would be


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expected to be achieved in a process of applying molten metal for circuitry as disclosed by the primary references.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian K. Talbot whose telephone number is (571) 272-1428. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6AM-3PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy H. Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 11/30/05
Brian K Talbot
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762

BKT